



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

July 22, 2011

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of the Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Jackson,

I am deeply concerned about reports that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Environment Protection Agency are reviewing a proposal to dramatically increase light vehicle fuel economy standards to as much as 56.2 miles per gallon by 2025. The Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich., predicts that setting the m.p.g. standard to such a high level – above ambitious targets already set – will cost the industry about 260,000 jobs and could force vehicle prices up by nearly \$10,000.

The state's weakened manufacturing sector may not be able to sustain such a blow without long lasting adverse effects. Ohio manufacturing – deeply tied to the automotive industry – has been devastated in the past decade. Since 2001, the state's manufacturing payrolls have declined by 345,600 jobs to the current 625,500. The state, which ranks behind only Michigan and Indiana in auto employment, was hard hit by the steep auto industry downturn of the last three to four years.

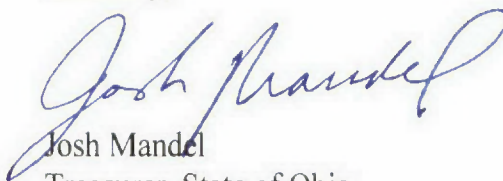
The loss of high wage, high compensation auto industry jobs has added to the challenges of managing the state's fiscal needs and an \$8 billion deficit. A balanced operating budget that passed last month addresses the deficit, but I should point out that auto-related personal tax revenues nationally contribute to some \$70

billion to government every year. Ohio simply cannot afford to lose more good paying auto jobs.

If manufacturing is the backbone of the American economy, then the automotive industry is in its heart. I know that's true of Ohio, with great names like Honda, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Navistar, PACCAR, Cooper Tire & Rubber, Dana, Eaton, Goodyear Tire & Rubber and many others located here.

Ohio's economic growth and fiscal soundness depends in large part on a stable manufacturing sector. I ask you to reconsider any further increase in fuel economy standards at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Josh Mandel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Mandel" clearly legible.

Josh Mandel

Treasurer, State of Ohio



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Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
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